

The enemy had been on the alert, and replied to our attack with surprising celerity. Scarcely had the roar of the first discharge died away among the hills, ere a Federal shell hurtling over the heads of Dearing's battery in our front, and not more than three feet above my own head, struck the ground a few feet in rear of me. Seeing a horrified expression upon the face of a soldier at my right, I glanced around, and saw that the missile had ploughed through the bodies of two men of my company, (Morris and Sam Jackson), cutting their bodies literally in two! They were close friends in life and "in death were not parted." Lieutenant Charlie Dawson arose to assist in moving the remains when a huge shell burst on the blanket he had just occupied. These are simply casual incidents. Pickett's division lost by this cannonade probably near 500 men.

The Federals suffered even more heavily than we, by the terrific bombardment. A single battery on Cemetery Hill lost 27, out of 36 horses during the first ten minutes. When 30 minutes had elapsed, Alexander, who, as we have seen, was to give the signal for the infantry charge, wrote a note to Pickett, stating that if the charge were made, it ought to be commenced at once as his ammunition was giving out, but that the enemy's fire had not slackened materially, and at least 18 guns were still firing from the Cemetery itself! Pickett galloped to Longstreet and showed him the note. The latter, who was heard subsequently to admit that he "knew the charge had to be made but could not bring himself to give the order," read the note but gave no reply to the inquiring glances of Pickett, who thereupon asked pointedly:—"General, shall I advance?" Longstreet turned in his saddle, and looking off, made no reply. Pickett saluted by touching his hand to his cap, and saying:—"I shall go and lead my division forward, Sir," wheeled his horse, and galloped back to the head of his division.

Longstreet left his staff, and rode alone to where Colonel Alexander was stationed to give the signal for the infantry charge. The latter had followed his first note to